THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) A report about implementation of new education policy by the Central and State Governments had been brought out by Government in March, 1988 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 23rd March, 1988.

(b) 209 Navodaya Vidyalayas are functioning at present in various States. Necessary teaching and non-teaching staff have been posted and other physical facilities provided in these Vidyalayas.

Setting up of the New Medical Colleges in the country

166. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of medical colleges likely to be set up in the country by the end of the current five year plan State-wise; and

(b) if so, what are the places which have been identified for opening of these colleges, and what amount has been sanctioned for each college?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) There is no proposal with the Government at present to set up any new medical college in the country during the current Five Year Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of a Highways Funding Body

167. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing National highways in the country are not upto the prescribed standards;

(b) whether Government are considering to set up a highway funding body for modernising the national highways; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The institutional arrangements for public borrowing for financing construction of National Highways in the country have not been finalised.

Introduction of superfast and express trains

168. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what criteria are adopted for introduction of superfast and express trains in the country;

(b) what is the number of such trains proposed to be introduced during the remaining period of the current five year plan in each Railway zone; and

(c) what is the number of superfast trains proposed for Maharashtra giving details of stations to be connected by these trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Introduction of trains, including Superfast trains are decided during the Inter Railway Time Table Meeting held twice a year. The criteria is need based and the resource availability.

Inadequate Handling Facilities at Haldia Dock

169. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: